

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

December 2005

Internet Address: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/bd/homepage.htm

Executive Committee Meeting

Braddock District Council

December 13, 2005 7:30 PM

Braddock District Meeting Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road

Burke, VA 22015 (703)-425-9300

Braddock District Council Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday, December 8 - Taste of Braddock

Tuesday, December 13 - Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 10 - General Membership

Tuesday, February 14 - General Membership

Message from the Chair:

This will be the last newsletter of 2005 and on behalf of the Braddock District Council, please accept my best wishes to you and your families for a happy holiday and prosperous New Year!

We will not have a meeting of the Council in December. Instead, as I announced at our November meeting, I will host a meeting on December 13 for the Executive Committee and other Council members to plan our program for January – June 2006. If you have suggestions or ideas for programs, please don't hesitate to send them to me or to Jeff Nolan, Vice-Chair.

I want to give a special thanks to Gil Donahue, whose notes on our November meeting appear in this issue. Chris Wells' presentation on the draft report of the Pedestrian Task Force is but one example of the many activities in the County that have involved citizen input. Supervisor Bulova has sponsored many of these activities within Braddock. In the coming months, I hope that we will have an opportunity to showcase more of these public/private partnerships as part of our Council agendas.

I look forward to seeing you at THE TASTE OF BRADDOCK on December 8th.

All good wishes for the season!

Janyce Hedetniemi, Chair
Braddock District Council

Braddock District Council Officers

Chair, Janyce Hedetniemi

Vice-Chair, Jeff Nolan

Treasurer, Ivan Dietrich

Recording Secretary, Colin Campbell

Communications Chair, Bruce Wallachy

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8 2005 MEETING NOTES

On November 8, 2005, Chris Wells, Pedestrian Program Manager, Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Pedestrian Safety, was the guest speaker. He discussed the work of a task force that coordinated long-term plan along with funding recommendations for a 10-year capital improvement plan. This was a multi-organizational effort involving the police, fire department, public health, VDOT, and citizen representatives. He noted that VDOT is becoming more pedestrian-friendly. The report is located on the following website: <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedforce.htm>. The recommendations involved the schools, the community, including employers and commuters, transit users, and county staff, which in turn involved the police, public safety, and healthcare workers.

Mr. Wells notes that because Virginia law is somewhat confusing regarding pedestrians, some education is necessary. One example that he gave included cars that are supposed to yield, but not stop, for pedestrians. Under 35 mph, the pedestrian has the right of way, but above that speed, only at crosswalks. This puts Virginia at odds with laws in many other states.

The task force recommended the following project prioritizations to be funded at \$60 million over 10 years (approximately \$6 million per year):

- ❑ Major activity centers/ transit access/intersection retrofits
Example: Tysons Corner - 45% of funding
- ❑ Replacement/upgrading/special ADA retrofit/bridges - 10%
- ❑ Bus stops and access - 15%
- ❑ Neighborhood connectivity/arterial walkways/road diets(a median refuge to help pedestrians cross the road) - 30%

Pedestrian bridges across major highways were given a low priority because they are hard to build and use successfully. A new one will be built, however, in Seven Corners across Rt. 50. Recommended funding is as follows:

PRIORITY PROJECT	AMOUNT FUNDED (million dollars)
Rt. 1 Corridor	10
40 Intersection retrofits	5
Rt. 7 Corridor	5
Tysons Corridor Urban Center Pedestrian Network	5
Transit Center Pedestrian Access	2
Countywide Neighborhood Missing Links	18
Countywide Bus Stop Access and Safety Improvements	9
Upgrade Substandard Pedestrian Facilities	6

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Another speaker that we were fortunate to have with us was Mr. Charles Dane from the Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation. Currently, there is a 5-6 year wait for many organ transplants. He promoted a website that helps potential donors sign up: www.save7lives.org. Mr. Dane explained that it is not necessary to be a

perfect match for the intended recipient in the event a family member or friend wants to make a donation. Now, that person's donation can be offset against another person who is a match for the recipient.

A new issue is use of the internet to plead on behalf of the organ recipient in an effort to short circuit the system. An unintended consequence, however, is that this service may actually increase the number of donors and offset some of the likely negative impact.

BDC MEMBERSHIP

Chair Jan Hedetniemi announced that 18 community associations have sent in membership renewals. Unfortunately, this number is lower than in years past. She and other members of the council will personally contact some of the associations that have been active in the past.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday, December 8 – Taste of Braddock

Tuesday, December 13 – Executive Committee to plan a focused workshop on community association issues for 2006

FURTHER DISCUSSION

BDC Website: Several participants expressed views about the goal and purpose of a BDC website. Several large associations already have their own websites and did not want to duplicate efforts by contributing to the BDC website. However, they were interested in having links on it to their websites.

Some participants thought that community associations would like to borrow ideas, and possibly articles, from other associations. Some intellectual property concerns were expressed, and there is a need for a policy to be developed for this purpose.

There was also concern expressed as to whether the current level of the BDC treasury would support the necessary maintenance that a website would involve.

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Colin Campbell was standing in for Supervisor Bulova. He noted that due to budget constraints, VDOT would only do pavement patching in the coming months rather than full-scale pavement replacement.

He also mentioned a serious incident of vandalism at the Burke VRE Station on the evening of Saturday, 11/5. On that day, \$80,000 worth of damage was caused, with virtually all glass broken, screens and cars smashed. The graffiti that was left indicated possible gang activity.

Sincerely,

Gil Donahue, CSWCA

SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER

The December issue of the Braddock District Council (BDC) Newsletter is my favorite. With our annual **Taste of Braddock** just a few weeks away, this is my chance to say thank you to the community leaders who do so much to make our Braddock District such a special place. The invitation list grows every year, which is a reflection of a very involved community. From involvement with **A Look Back at Braddock**, to citizens working with my office and county staff on repairs to the **Lake Royal Dam Spillway**, in addition to our 2005/2006 **Comprehensive Plan (APR) Task Force**, this has been a hallmark year for community engagement. I wish to thank, in particular, Jan Hedetniemi and members of the BDC Executive Committee, for their outstanding stewardship of the council – for providing such a valuable forum for community leaders in our District.

This has also been a year where *last* year's efforts to address an increase in **gang activity** have borne fruit. While our Community Dialog in 2004 focused on the Annandale/Heritage area, participants included residents from all over the District, and many of the results have extended County-wide.

- In 2005, the Ravensworth-Bristow Civic Association was re-activated.
- Two “pilot” Braddock Nights Concerts were held at Ossian Hall Park this summer. Starting in June 2006, summer night concerts will be a regular, community-building feature at this park every Thursday, beginning at 7:30 PM. Look for the schedule of performances in my spring Braddock Byline.
- Two “Youth Speak-Outs” were held for students in Annandale schools, where young people expressed their concerns and ideas regarding gang activity in their community. Six of the students who spoke before the Board of Supervisors were hired by the county to evaluate existing programs and to help design a new program specifically for at-risk young people in the Annandale area. The efforts of these students have been chronicled in a National Geographic educational video.
- The Board of Supervisors provided funding in the county’s budget to expand after school programs into more middle schools. In addition, Annandale High School has created a Family Resource Center on the school campus. Opportunities are being discussed for collaboration between the county and schools that would expand and enhance services and outreach to parents offered through the center.
- The Board, led by Chairman Gerry Connolly, created a county-wide Gang Coordinating Council to address prevention of gang activity as a Board priority. Annandale resident Bob Bermingham was named Coordinator of the Council.
- West Springfield Police Commander Jack Hurlock created a summer camp program for at-risk youngsters, called “Road Dawg Camp.” The program provides opportunities for young people to interact with police officers as positive role models and mentors. Several churches in the area have hosted forums as well regarding the prevention of gang activity.
- The West Springfield Police hosted “Community Days” at Heritage Mall in the fall of 2004 and 2005. Next year's event will be even bigger and better, with more entertainment and food, in addition to public safety displays.

I believe this is a pretty impressive list. There is likely more that I am not personally aware of. I just wanted to thank all of you for the time and effort you have invested in our community. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. As a result of your efforts, our community has much to be thankful for. I look forward to seeing you at **Taste of Braddock** on **December 8th**!

Sincerely,

Sharon Bulova